



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Baltimore Man Pleads Guilty in Howard County Surveillance Offense**

A Baltimore man charged with peeping tom offenses in three jurisdictions this past year has pleaded guilty in a Howard County case this morning. Edwin Leonel Menendez-Maldonado, 43, of the 500 block of Tolna Street, pleaded guilty to a single count of surveillance in a private place with prurient intent.

Menendez was arrested on October 28, 2016 as he exited from a Goodwill Industries thrift shop located at 7351 Assateague Drive, Jessup. Police were called after a clerk observed Menendez kneeling in a dressing room whenever a woman tried on clothes in the adjacent dressing room. The clerk subsequently discovered a half-inch-diameter hole between the partitioned changing rooms. Assistant State's Attorney Justin Lake told the court that the peephole did not exist prior to the clerk's observation of Menendez entering and leaving the dressing room "repeatedly over the course of three hours." The tool used to make the hole was never recovered.

Referring to Menendez's arrests in Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties, Lake stated that the "three incidents, extremely similar in nature" were a "disturbing pattern of behavior." Howard County Circuit Court Judge Timothy J. McCrone sentenced Menendez to 364 days in jail, suspending all but 60 days. Upon release, the judge ordered him placed on three years of supervised probation, during which time he is to undergo random urinalysis and to submit to psycho-sexual evaluation and treatment. The judge also ordered Menendez to not enter or be found near "any ladies dressing rooms anywhere."

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